

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5623

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS

SUBJECT: PROVOS THREATEN BRITISH MP'S

1. ALL DUBLIN PAPERS MAY 8 CARRIED STATEMENT REPORTEDLY ISSUED BY PROVISIONAL IRA HERE. THERE ARE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT AUTHENTICITY, BUT PRESS GENERALLY ACCEPTS STATEMENT. IN IT, PROVOS THREATEN TO PUT BRITISH MP'S AND MINISTERS ON LIST OF "LEGITIMATE TARGETS." DECISION WAS TAKEN FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, BRITISH ARMY HAS THREATENED TO "SHOOT IRISH CHILDREN." (THIS REFERS TO ARMY STATEMENT ABOUT MINORS THROWING PETROL BOMBS.) SECOND, THERE IS "GROWING CAMPAIGN OF MURDER OF CIVILIANS," AND "FORCES OF OCCUPATION CONNIVE OPENLY WITH KILLER SQUADS." STATEMENT DOES NOT SPECIFY WHETHER POLITICIANS ARE "LEGITIMATE TARGETS" ONLY IN NORTHERN IRELAND OR ALSO IN BRITAIN.

2. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT FIRST REASON GIVEN ABOVE IS LARGELY AN ATTEMPT BY PROVOS AT PUBLIC RELATIONS. SECOND REASON IS INTERESTING. PROTESTANT EXTREMISTS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY USE SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS AS RESPONSE TO PROVO BOMBINGS. IF STATEMENT IS AUTHENTIC, PROVOS ARE AT LEAST WORRIED ABOUT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY'S REACTION AFTER SEVERAL RECENT KILLINGS OF UNINVOLVED CIVILIANS.

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3. NOT CLEAR TO US WHETHER BRITISH POLITICANS ARE IN
GREATER DANGER THAN IN PAST. IF PROVOS PLAN TO ASSASSINATE
MP'S AT THEIR HOMES IN EITHER NORTHERN IRELAND OR BRITAIN,
THEY WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL REASON TO BE WORRIED.
HALL

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